

Windham/Salem ~ Route 111 Bypass

Construction Update ~ Summer 2006

Project Overview

At first glance, it may seem that only minor work is happening on Route 111 and Route 28, but what can be seen from the existing roadways is only a small part of the effort to alleviate traffic congestion east of the I-93 Exit 3 interchange. The goal of construction is to improve safety, efficiency and traffic flow on Route 111 & 28, specifically addressing concerns at the 111/28 intersection and the portion of Route 111 along Shadow Lake.

Route 111 serves as a key east-west corridor between Kingston and Hudson. Over the last 35 years this corridor has been upgraded, except for the 2 ½ mile gap in Windham & Salem. Based on population and traffic projections, it was evident that the existing traffic problems in the area of the Route 111/28 intersection would only get worse. In the mid 1990s, the Department of Transportation (DOT) entered into its planning stage and began development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During the planning stage, the DOT worked with the Towns of Windham and Salem to investigate and evaluate close to a dozen potential solutions.

The chosen solution not only resolves traffic and safety issues, but also minimizes the environmental, social and economic impacts. The selected alternative calls for the construction of 5.3 miles of roadway, including a new 2 mile Route 111 bypass from Searles Road to Zachary's Crossing Road, west of Shadow Lake, and 5.3 miles of improvements to the existing roadways.



Bypass section currently under construction



New Bridge spanning Flatrock Brook

Project History

Current construction activities are the 3rd phase in a four phase approach to implementation of the selected solution. Over the past few years, the DOT and contractors have been hard at work completing major construction activity just out of sight. From 2003 through 2005, the DOT has constructed a new 600 foot bridge spanning Harris Road & Flatrock Brook (Phase I

~ completed Jan. 2006). The new bridge preserves an important wildlife corridor, while minimizing impacts to adjacent wetlands. DOT also constructed 1½ miles of new roadway (Phase II ~ completed Nov.

2005). This work progressed out of sight on a stretch of undeveloped land between Route 28 and Route 111, just west of Shadow Lake.

The goals of the current construction (Phase III), simply put, are to build another new ½ mile section of road between Searles Road and Route 28, tie in the previously built bridge and roadway and open the new bypass. After the bypass is open, Phase IV will improve the existing Route 111/28 intersection.

Current Activities

So what does this all mean to the local residents? First off, the bulk of the construction work being done right now is "off line", meaning that the contractors' activities have not significantly impacted traffic. However, roadwork will soon begin on Route 111, Route 28 and a number of the local streets that will have some impact on traffic. This work includes improvements to roadway drainage, improvements to the existing roadways and relocation of utilities such as power and telephone lines. At this



Previously built section of new bypass

time, the opening of the bypass roadway is anticipated to take place in the Fall of 2007 with the remainder of Phase III construction wrapping up in the Fall of 2008. Once the roadway construction is complete, a landscaping contract will address roadside plantings.

Some of the current construction activities include:

- Drainage & utility work on Route 28
- Earth & rock excavation, in the bypass section just west of Route 28
- Construction of the new portions of Roulston Rd. & Industrial Dr. (anticipate opening to traffic in early Fall of this year)

The DOT and its contractors are committed to maintaining traffic flow and providing access to local businesses during construction. Local police will be utilized to facilitate traffic control and provide safe conditions for the traveling public and the construction crews.



Ongoing construction on Route 28

In summary, current activities are the culmination of years of work by the DOT, local officials & citizens and contractors. Although construction can sometimes be a major inconvenience, you are seeing the tail end of activities which will provide a significant improvement to the local infrastructure. The DOT greatly appreciates the public's input and patience during the planning and construction phases. Future newsletters will provide more details on the project plans, construction activities, schedule and the anticipated benefits of the new roads.